

Claims

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of storing a collection of digital images on a removable storage medium, the removable storage medium usable for transferring the stored digital images to a set-top box coupled to a television, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) inputting a group of images for which corresponding image files are available;
- b) displaying on a first display device, to a user, the group of images for which corresponding image files are available;
- c) prompting the user to select a plurality of images from the group;
- d) receiving input from the user by which the user selects one or more images from the group;
- e) prompting the user to save the selected images as an album of images;
- f) receiving an instruction from the user to save the selected images to the removable storage medium as an album of images, wherein the album is for viewing on the television different than the first display device;
- g) making a contact sheet image, the contact sheet image including thumbnail representations of the images contained in the album;

[[g]] h) making a copy of each image file that corresponds to one of the selected images and the contact sheet image to result in image file copies;

[[h]] i) processing the image file copies to tailor the selected images according to memory size constraints of the removable storage medium and according to one or more display characteristics of the television;

[[i]] j) compressing the processed image file copies; and

[[j]] k) saving, to the removable storage medium, the album of images comprising the compressed image file copies that correspond to the selected images and the contact sheet image, wherein the album of images is transferable via the removable storage medium to a media reader in the set-top box to display the selected images on the television, and wherein the set-top box displays the contact sheet image first to inform the viewer of the album being viewed.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1 ~~further comprising the step of making a contact sheet image including~~ wherein the contact sheet image has a user-selected album title having a font and color selected by the user, ~~the contact sheet image further including representations of the images contained in the album.~~

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the processing the image file copies comprises automatically resizing the image file copies so that the selected images, when displayed, will have a resolution not exceeding a resolution required for optimal viewing on the television.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the processing the image file copies further comprises:

automatically adjusting one or more of the image file copies to include one or more modifications; and

in the saving step, ensuring that the adjusted image file copies are saved as compressed adjusted image file copies.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of saving, to the removable storage medium, a file that contains parameters of the album, wherein the file allows a user to automatically recreate the album for further duplication or modification.

6. **(Currently Amended)** A tangible computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions thereon for instructing a computing device to store an album of images to a removable digital storage medium, the removable digital storage medium usable to transfer the stored album of images to a stand-alone set-top box coupled to a television, the stand-alone set-top box designed to display the album of digital images on the television, the computer-executable instructions comprising instructions to:

- a) input a group of images for which corresponding image files are available;
- b) display, to a user, the group of images for which corresponding image files are available;
- c) prompt the user to select a plurality of images from the group;

- d) receive input from the user by which the user selects the plurality of images from the group;
- e) receive second input from the user indicating a preferred order of display for the selected images as a slideshow;
- f) prompt the user to save one or more of the selected images as the album of images;
- g) receive an instruction from the user to save the one or more selected images to the removable digital storage medium as the album of images;
- h) make a copy of each image file that corresponds to one of the one or more selected images to result in one or more image file copies;
- i) compress the one or more image file copies; and
- j) save, to the removable digital storage medium, the one or more compressed image file copies that correspond to the selected images, wherein the album of images is saved on the removable storage medium in a format readable by a media reader in the stand-alone set-top box to display the selected images on the television, and wherein the stand-alone set-top box pre-computes video images representing the selected images and stores the pre-computed video images before displaying the selected images on the television so as to reduce flicker.

7. (canceled)

8. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 6 wherein the instructions further comprise instructions for instructing the computing device to automatically resize the one or more image file copies so that the one or more selected images, when displayed, will have a resolution not exceeding a resolution required for optimal viewing on a standard television display.

9. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 6, wherein the instructions further comprise instructions for instructing the computing device to:

- a) automatically adjust the one or more image file copies corresponding to the one or more selected images to include one or more modifications; and

- b) in the saving step, ensure that the one or more image file copies are saved as compressed adjusted image file copies.

10. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 6 wherein the instructions further comprise instructions for instructing the computing device to save, to the removable digital storage medium, a file that contains parameters of the album, wherein the file allows a user to automatically recreate the image album for further duplication or modification.

11. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus for the creation of a digital photo album, the apparatus creating and saving the digital photo album to a removable storage medium, the removable storage medium being usable to transfer the digital photo album to a set-top box coupled to a television, the set-top box usable to display the digital photo album on the television, the apparatus comprising:

- a) means for inputting a group of images for which corresponding image files are available;
- b) means for displaying on a first display device, to a user, the group of images for which corresponding image files are available;
- c) means for prompting the user to select a plurality of images from the group;
- d) means for receiving input from the user by which the user selects one or more images from the group;
- e) means for prompting the user to save the selected images as the digital photo album of images, wherein the digital photo album is for viewing on the television coupled to the set-top box;
- f) means for receiving an instruction from the user to save the selected images to the removable storage medium as the digital photo album of images;
- g) means for making a copy of each image file that corresponds to one of the selected images to result in image file copies;
- h) means for processing the image file copies to tailor the selected images according to one or more display characteristics of the television;
- i) means for compressing the processed image file copies; and

- j) means for saving, to the removable storage medium, the digital photo album comprising the compressed image file copies that correspond to the selected images, wherein the digital photo album is saved on the removable storage medium in a format for transferring to a media reader in the set-top box to display the selected images on the television, and wherein the set-top box pre-computes video images representing the selected images and stores the pre-computed video images before displaying the selected images on the television so as to reduce flicker.

12. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising means for making a contact sheet comprised of a user-selected album title having a font and color selected by the user and including representations of the images contained in the digital photo album.

13. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the means for processing the image file copies comprises means for automatically adjusting the image file copies so that the selected images, when retrieved from the removable storage medium, will display in resolutions appropriate for the television.

14. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the means for processing the image file copies further comprises:

- a) means for prompting the user to make one or more modifications to any of the selected images;
- b) means for automatically adjusting the image file copies corresponding to the selected images for which the user makes one or more modifications so that said image file copies result in adjusted image file copies that include the one or more modifications; and
- c) means for ensuring that the image file copies that have resulted in adjusted image file copies are saved as adjusted image file copies.

15. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising means for saving, to the removable storage medium, a link that allows a user to view the image files that are stored on the removable storage medium as the digital photo album of images.

16-31. (canceled)

32. **(Currently Amended)** A tangible computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions thereon for instructing a computing device to store an album of images on a removable storage device for transfer to a television-set-top box for display on a television, the computer-executable instructions comprising instructions to:

- a) input a group of images for which corresponding image files are available;
- b) display, to a user, the group of images for which corresponding image files are available;
- c) prompt the user to select a plurality of images from the group;
- d) receive input from the user by which the user selects the plurality of images from the group;
- e) receive second input from the user indicating a preferred order of display for the selected images as a slideshow;
- f) prompt the user to save one or more of the selected images as an album of images;
- g) receive an instruction from the user to save the one or more selected images to a removable storage medium as the album of images;
- h) make a copy of each image file that corresponds to one of the one or more selected images to result in one or more image file copies;
- i) compress the one or more image file copies;
- j) save, to the removable storage medium, the one or more compressed image file copies that correspond to the selected images, wherein the album of images saved to the removable storage medium is readable by a media reader in the set-top box to display the selected images on the television, and wherein the set-top box pre-computes video images representing the selected images and stores the pre-computed video images before displaying the selected images on the television so as to reduce flicker; and

- k) make a contact sheet image including an album title and representations of the one or more images contained in the album.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the first display device is a computer monitor.

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving second input from the user indicating a preferred order of display for the selected images as a slideshow.

35. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the television has an aspect ratio, and wherein the processing the image file copies comprises, for each of one or more of the selected images, adding fill space up to the aspect ratio of the television.

36. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 6 wherein the display of the group of images occurs on a computer monitor.

37. (canceled).

38. (previously presented) The medium of claim 6 wherein the computer-executable instructions further comprise instructions for instructing the computing device to process the image file copies by, for each of one or more of the selected images, adding fill space up to an aspect ratio of a standard television screen.

39. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the first display device is a computer monitor.

40. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11 further comprising means for receiving second input from the user indicating a preferred order of display for the selected images as a slideshow.

41. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the television has an aspect ratio, and wherein the processing the image file copies comprises, for each of one or more of the selected images, adding fill space up to the aspect ratio of the television.

42. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the set-top box is a stand-alone set-top box requiring no connection to a separate computer.

43. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the removable storage medium is a floppy disk, a compact disk, a ZIP drive, or a flash memory.

44. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving the instruction from the user to save the selected storage images to the storage medium comprises receiving a click input from the user, the click input indicating a request to save the album of images to the removable storage medium.